

EXHIBIT 8, PART 1



US006565434B1

(12) **United States Patent**
Acres

(10) Patent No.: **US 6,565,434 B1**
(45) Date of Patent: ***May 20, 2003**

(54) **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROMOTING PLAY ON A NETWORK OF GAMING DEVICES**

(75) Inventor: **John Acres, Corvallis, OR (US)**

(73) Assignee: **Acres Gaming, Inc., Las Vegas, NV (US)**

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days

This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

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Assistant Examiner—John M. Hotaling, II

(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Marger & Johnson & McCollom, P.C.

(57) ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus for controlling a bonusing promotion system using a bonus server interconnected to a plurality of gaming devices is described. A percentage of a wager played on each gaming device is accumulated into a bonus pool stored on the bonus server. The bonus pool is compared to a threshold value stored on the bonus server each time the bonus pool changes. One of the gaming devices is selected when the threshold value is substantially met. A bonus prize funded by the bonus pool is awarded to the selected gaming device.

40 Claims, 31 Drawing Sheets

Related U.S. Application Data

(62) Division of application No. 08/843,411, filed on Apr. 15, 1997, now Pat. No. 6,319,125, which is a continuation of application No. 08/465,915, filed on Jun. 6, 1995, now Pat. No. 5,752,882, which is a division of application No. 08/322,172, filed on Oct. 12, 1994, now Pat. No. 5,655,961.

(51) Int. Cl.⁷ **A63F 13/00**

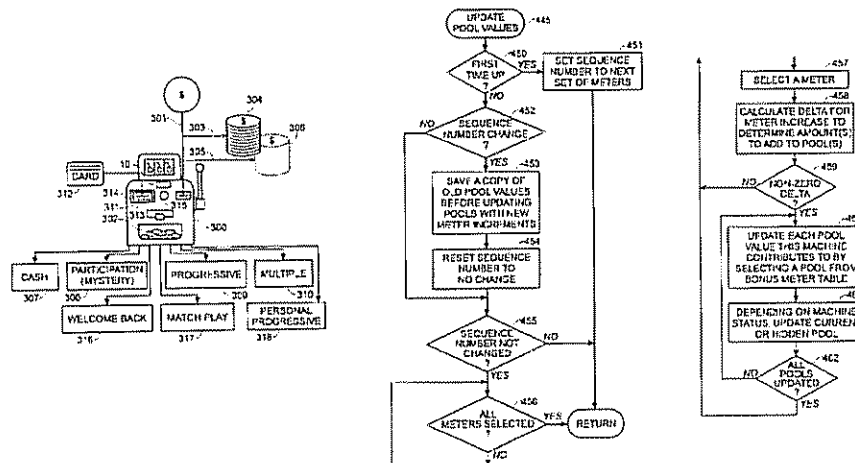
(52) U.S. Cl. **463/25; 463/27; 463/42**

(58) Field of Search **463/1, 16-20, 463/25-28**

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Fig. 1

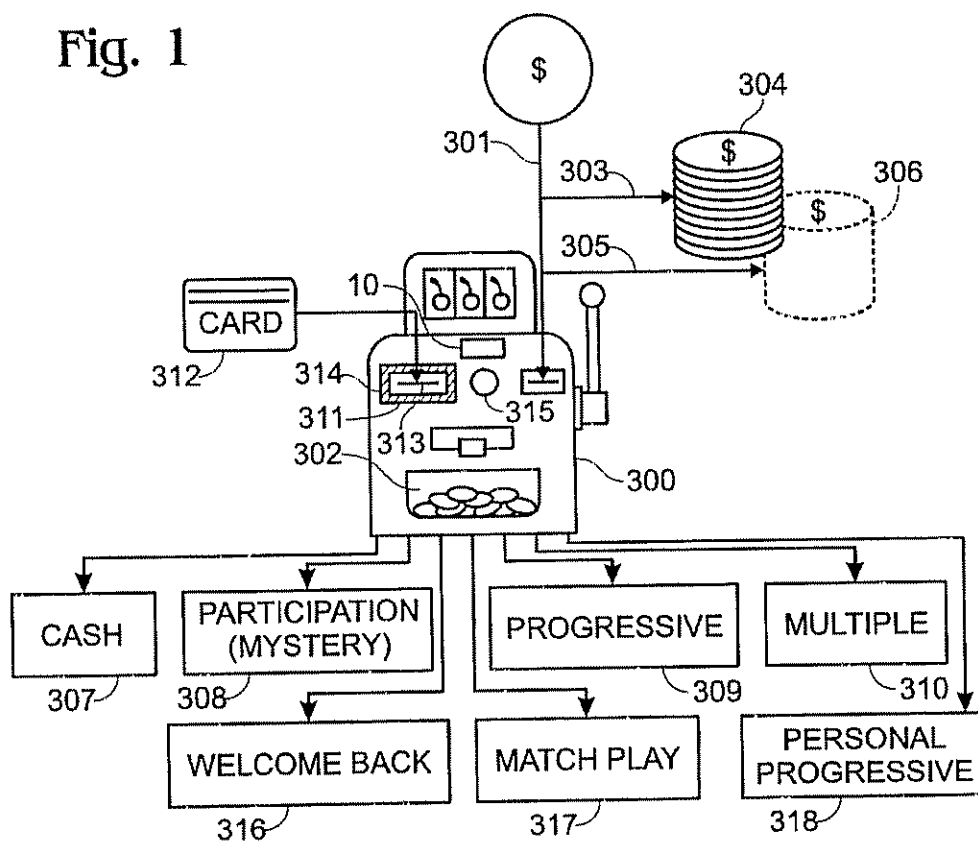
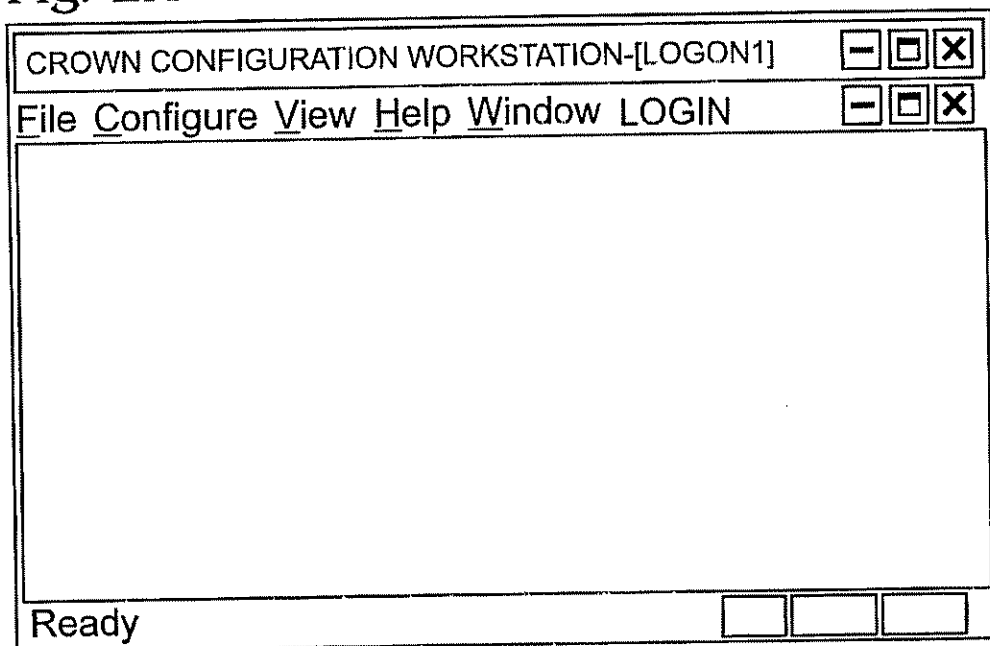


Fig. 2A



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Fig. 2B

The screenshot shows a window titled "CROWN CONFIGURATION WORKSTATION-[LOGON1]" with a menu bar containing "File", "Configure", "View", "Help", "Window", and "LOGIN". Inside the window is a dialog box titled "USER LOGIN / PASSWORD VERIFICATION". The dialog box contains two sections: "CROWN CASINO" and "VCGA". Each section has "NAME" and "PASSWORD" labels followed by input fields. To the right of the input fields are "OK" and "CANCEL" buttons. The status bar at the bottom of the window shows "Ready" and three empty square icons.

Fig. 2D

The screenshot shows a window titled "CROWN CONFIGURATION WORKSTATION [JOE HART / JOHN ACRES] - [LOGON1]" with a menu bar containing "File", "Configure", "View", "Help", "Window", and "LOGOUT". Inside the window is a dialog box titled "ABOUT CONFIGURATION WORKSTATION". The dialog box contains a small square icon, the text "CROWN CASINO CONFIGURATION WORKSTATION VERSION 1.04", "COPYRIGHT©1996 ACRES GAMING", and "ALL RIGHTS RESERVED". An "OK" button is located at the bottom right of the dialog box. The status bar at the bottom of the window shows "Ready" and three empty square icons.

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Fig. 2C

CROWN CONFIGURATION WORKSTATION [JOE HART / JOHN ACRES] - [LOGON1]

File Configure View Help Window LOGOUT

CHOOSE BONUS TO EDIT OR CREATE:

BONUS INFORMATION

BONUS TYPE

PROGRESSIVE

DEFINED BONUSES

AVAILABLE SERVERS

NUMBERS OF POOL DEFINED

EDIT PARAMETERS

EDIT JACKPOT VALUES

ADD NEW POOL

DELETE POOL

CREATE NEW BONUS

REFRESH SERVER LIST

CANCEL

☒ LOAD FROM DISK

Ready

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Fig. 2E

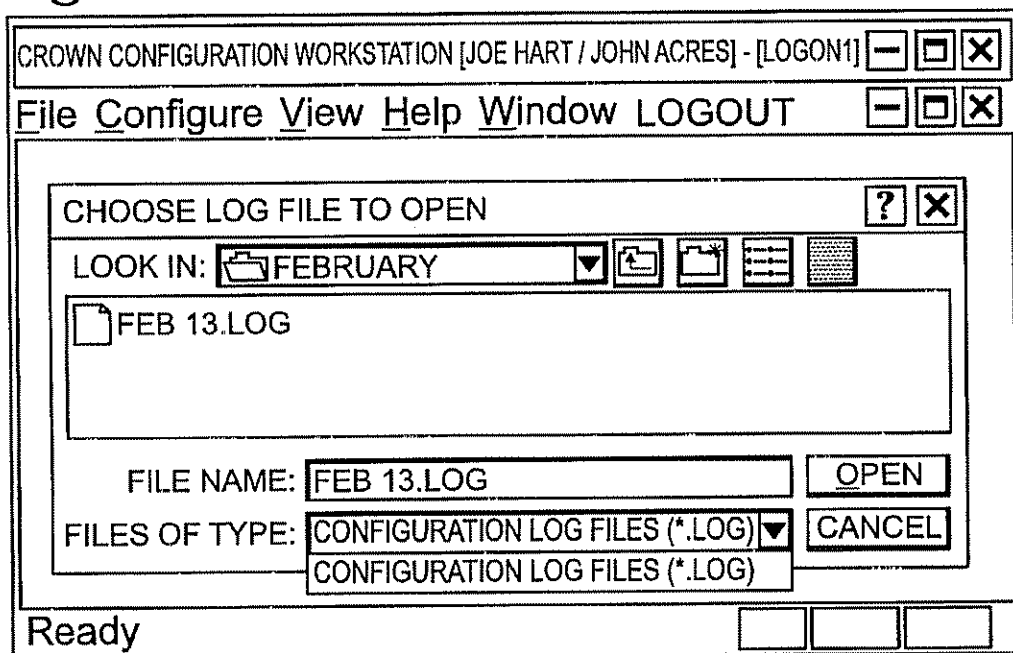
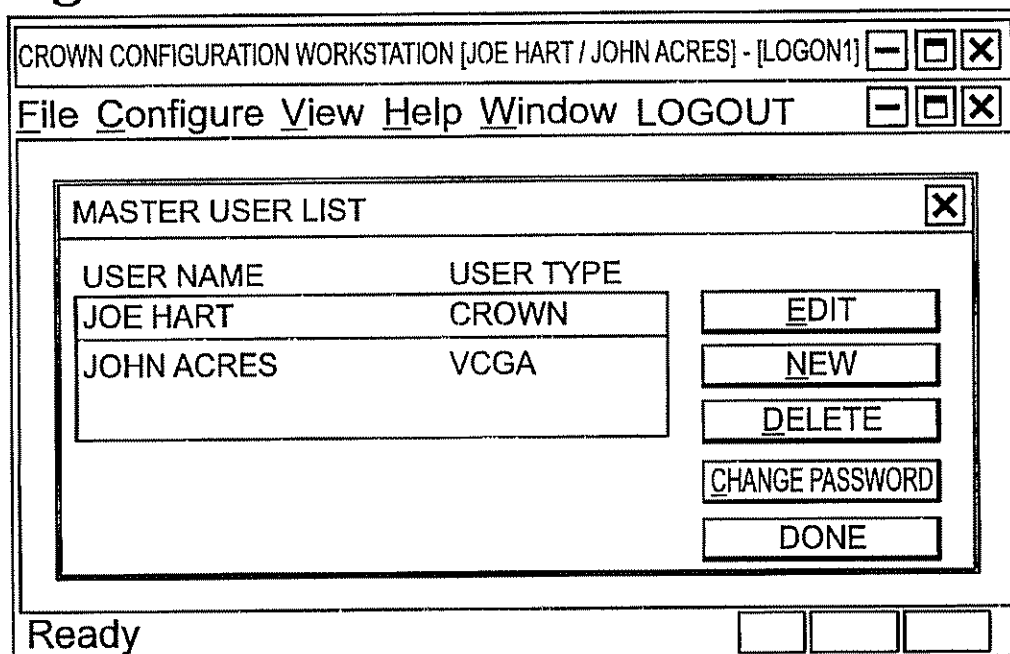


Fig. 2F



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Fig. 2G

CROWN CONFIGURATION WORKSTATION [JOE HART / JOHN ACRES] - [LOGON1]

File Configure View Help Window LOGOUT

USER CONFIGURATION SCREEN

USER INFORMATION

FIRST NAME:

LAST NAME:

PASSWORD:

USER TYPE: ☒ CROWN CASINO PERSONNEL ☐ VCGA PERSONNEL

OK CANCEL

USER ACCESS RIGHTS

☒ USER CONFIGURATION

☒ BONUS CONFIGURATION

☒ GROUP CONFIGURATION

☒ UPDATE EXECUTABLES

☒ DISPLAY MESSAGE CONFIGURATION

☒ BANK CONTROLLER ID / NAME TABLE

☒ CANCEL / RESET ACTIVE JACKPOTS

☒ SOFTWARE SIGNATURE OVERRIDE

☒ VIEW / PRINT LOG FILES

☒ VIEW CONFIGURATION PARAMETERS

Ready

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Fig. 2H

CROWN CONFIGURATION WORKSTATION [JOE HART / JOHN ACRES] - [LOGON] [F] [] [X]

File Configure View Help Window LOGOUT [] [] [X]

BANK CONTROLLER ID / DESCRIPTION TABLE [X]

BCID ID NUMBER	
123	SOUTH END FLOOR

BCID ID NUMBER:

DESCRIPTION:

Ready [] [] []

Fig. 2I

CROWN CONFIGURATION WORKSTATION [JOE HART / JOHN ACRES] - [LOGON1] [] [] [X]

File Configure View Help Window LOGOUT [] [] [X]

MANAGE GROUPS [X]

DEFINED GROUPS: [] ITEMS IN GROUP: [] FLOOR LOCATION: [] GROUP TYPE: ☒ BONUS ☐ DISPLAY ☐ SOUND

ENTER THE NAME OF THE GROUP [X]

GROUP NAMES:

0 GROUP(S)

Ready [] [] []

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Fig. 2J

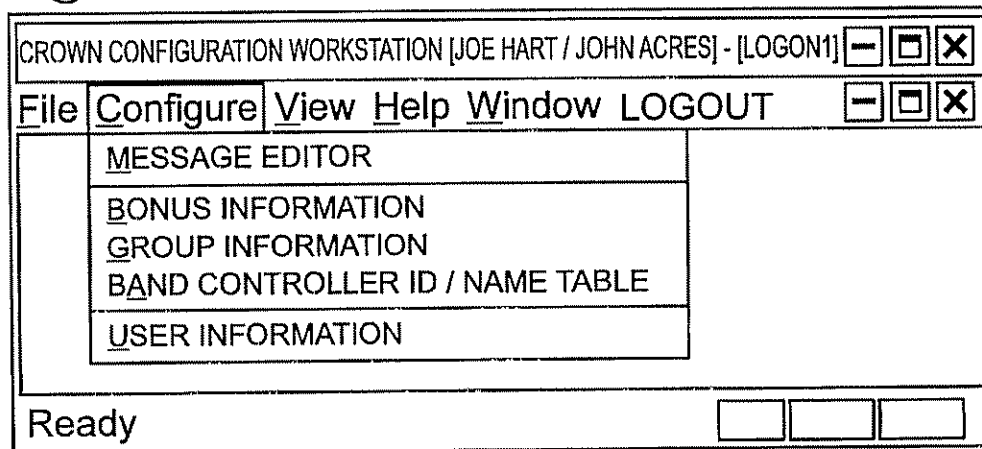
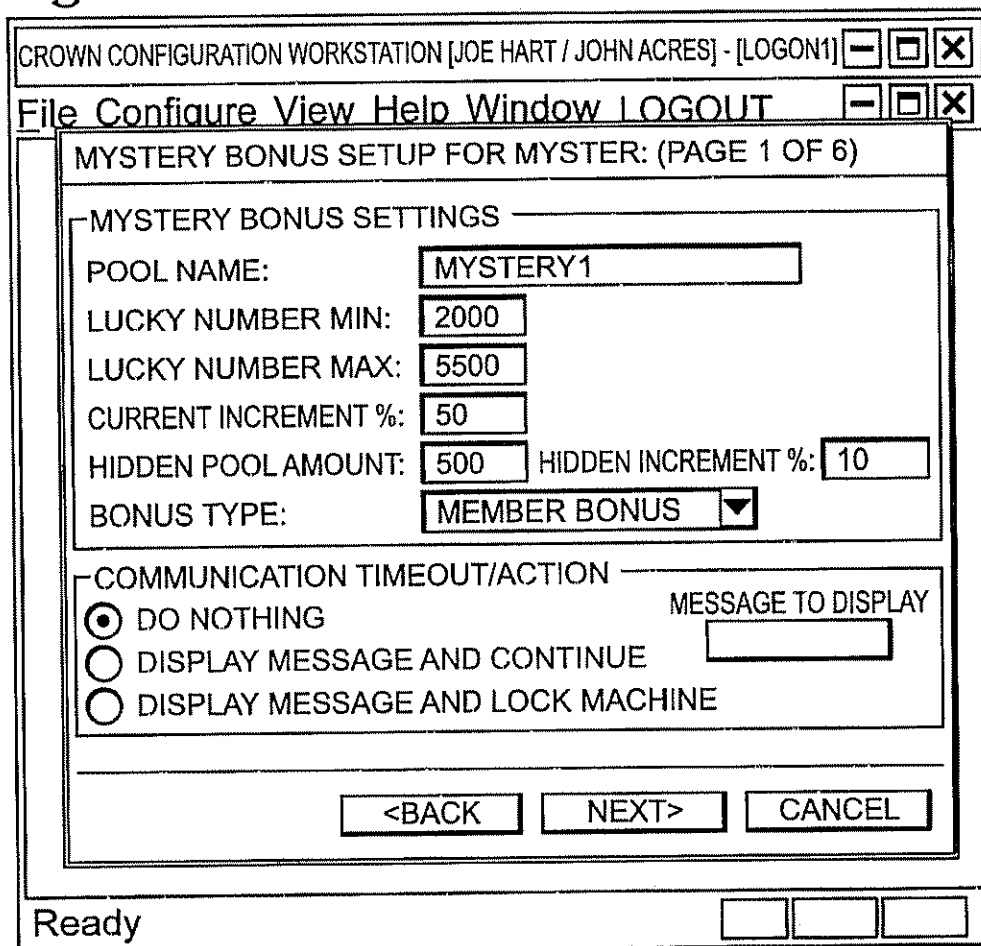


Fig. 2K



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Fig. 2L

CROWN CONFIGURATION WORKSTATION [JOE HART / JOHN ACRES] - [LOGON1]

File Configure View Help Window LOGOUT

MYSTERY BONUS SETUP FOR MYSTER: (PAGE 2 OF 6)

MYSTERY FLOOR LOCATION GROUPS LIST

A0102G~1

SHELLY~1

ADD

REMOVE

FLOOR LOCATIONS IN BONUS

A0102

A0103

2 MACHINES IN BONUS

<BACK NEXT> CANCEL

Ready

Fig. 2M

CROWN CONFIGURATION WORKSTATION [JOE HART / JOHN ACRES] - [LOGON1]

File Configure View Help Window LOGOUT

MYSTERY BONUS SETUP FOR MYSTER: (PAGE 4 OF 6)

☒ ENABLE CONSOLATION PRIZE

CONSOLATION PRIZE SETTINGS

BASE CONSOLATION \$: 100

MEMBER CARD AWARD (%): 200

NUMBER CARD AWARD (%): 100

UNCARDED AWARD(%): 50

☒ ELIGIBILITY REQUIRED

☒ ENABLE FLASHING FLUORESCENT

DURATION: 0

☐ BONUS BUTTON PRESS REQUIRED

TIME LIMIT:

☐ CONSOLATION ABI TONE

ABI TONE:

REPEAT:

<BACK NEXT> CANCEL

Ready

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Fig. 2N

CROWN CONFIGURATION WORKSTATION [JOE HART / JOHN ACRES] - [LOGON1]

File Configure View Help Window LOGOUT

MYSTERY BONUS SETUP FOR MYSTER: (PAGE 5 OF 6)

SOUND GROUP: <NONE>

ANTICIPATION SOUND

☐ ENABLE ANTICIPATION SOUND

COUNTS PRIOR TO WIN: 0

CD SEQUENCE NUMBER: 0

REPEAT: 0

DURATION: 0 VOLUME: 0

CELEBRATION SOUND

☐ ENABLE CELEBRATION SOUND

CD SEQUENCE NUMBER: 0

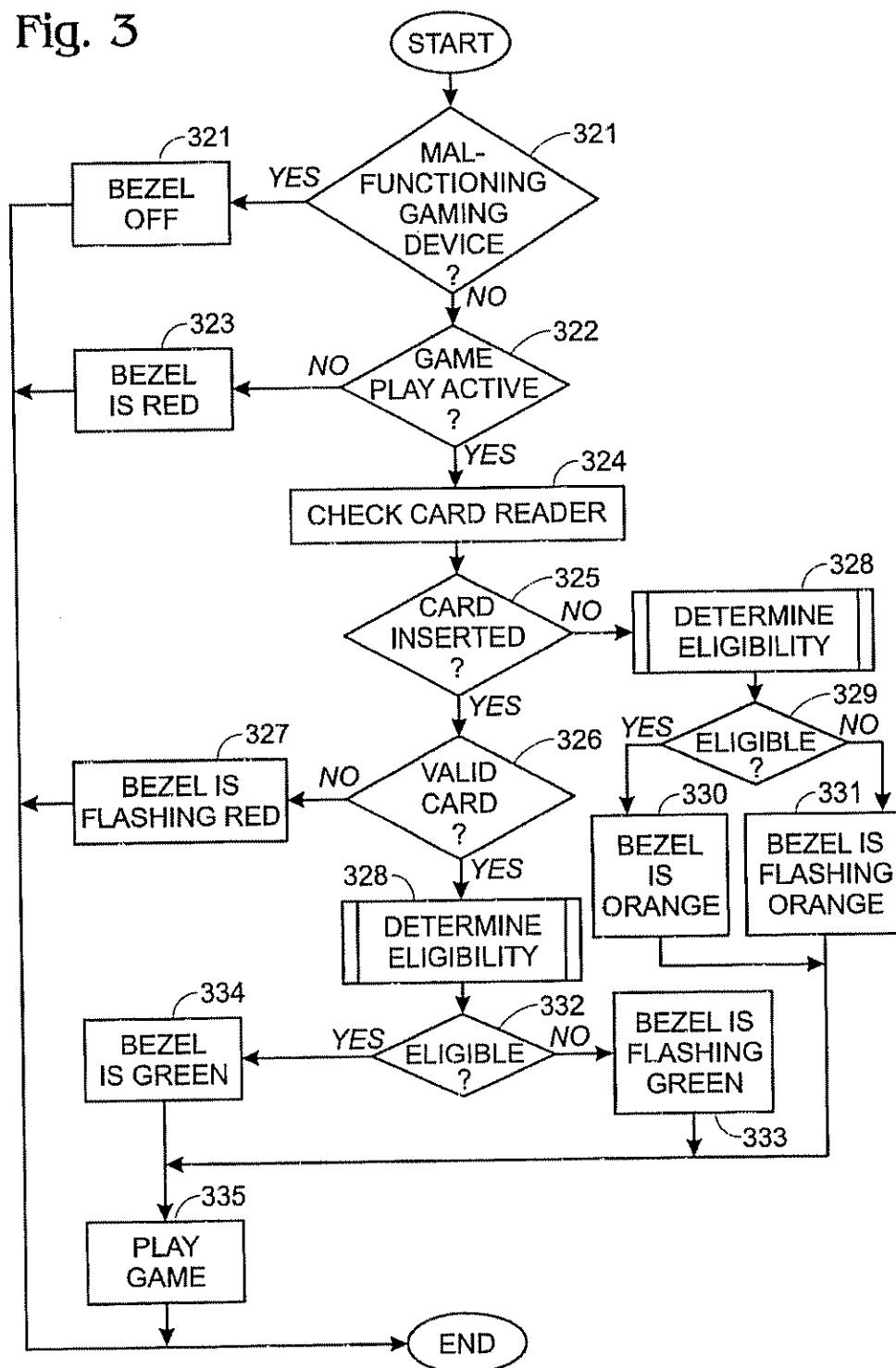
REPEAT: 0

DURATION: 0 VOLUME: 0

<BACK NEXT> CANCEL

Ready

Fig. 3

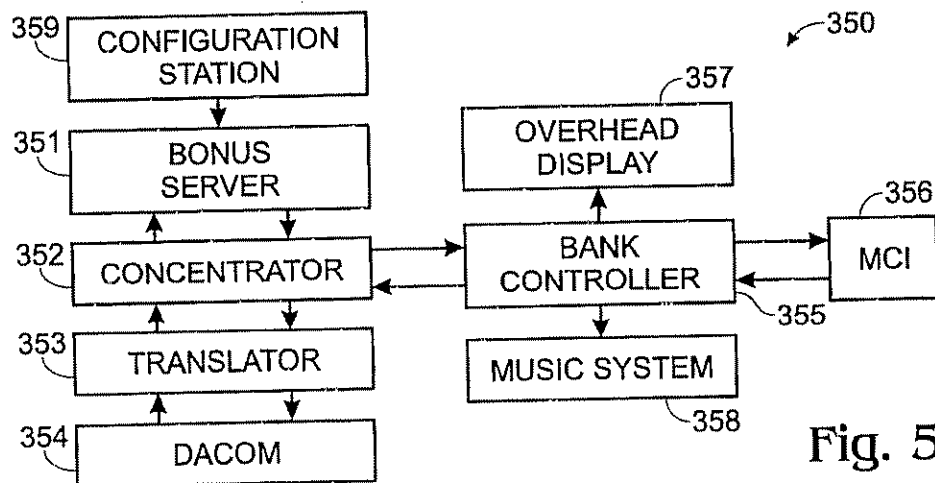
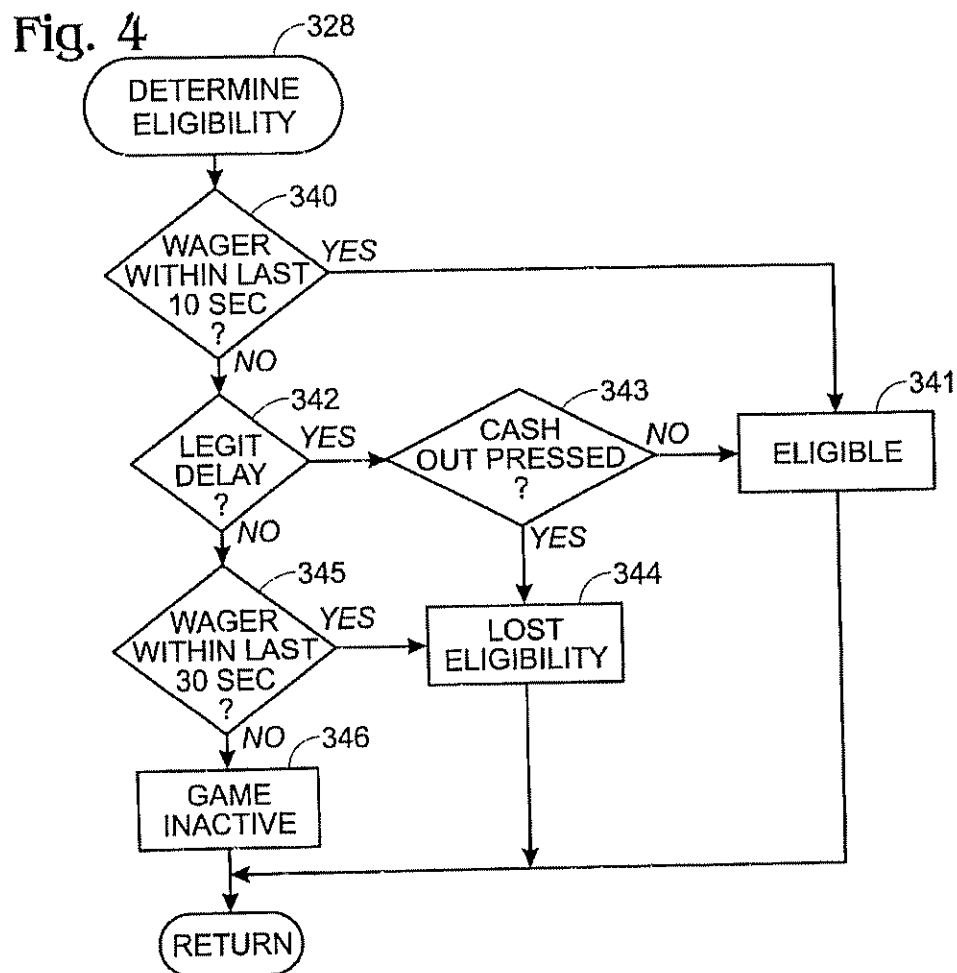


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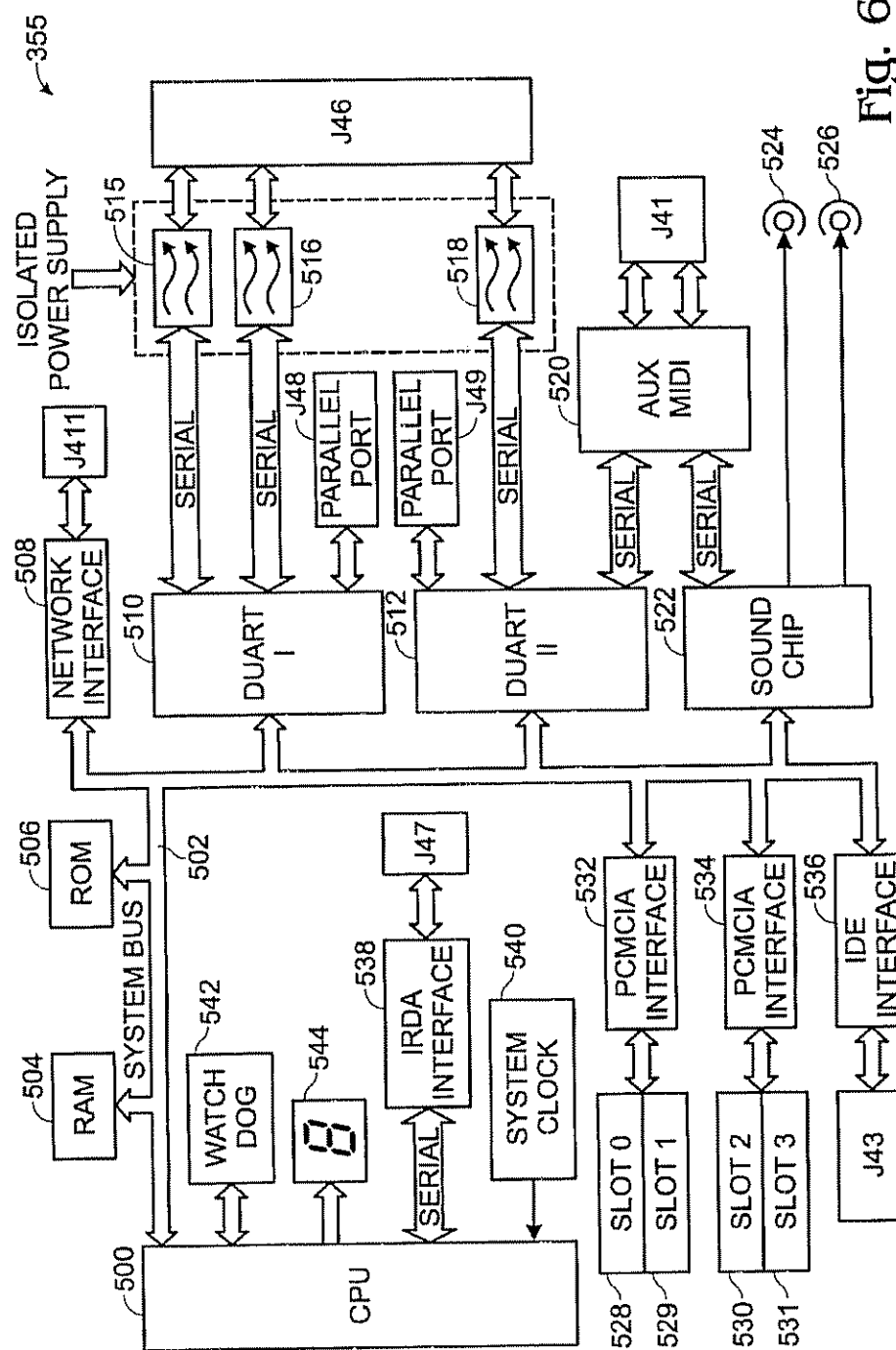
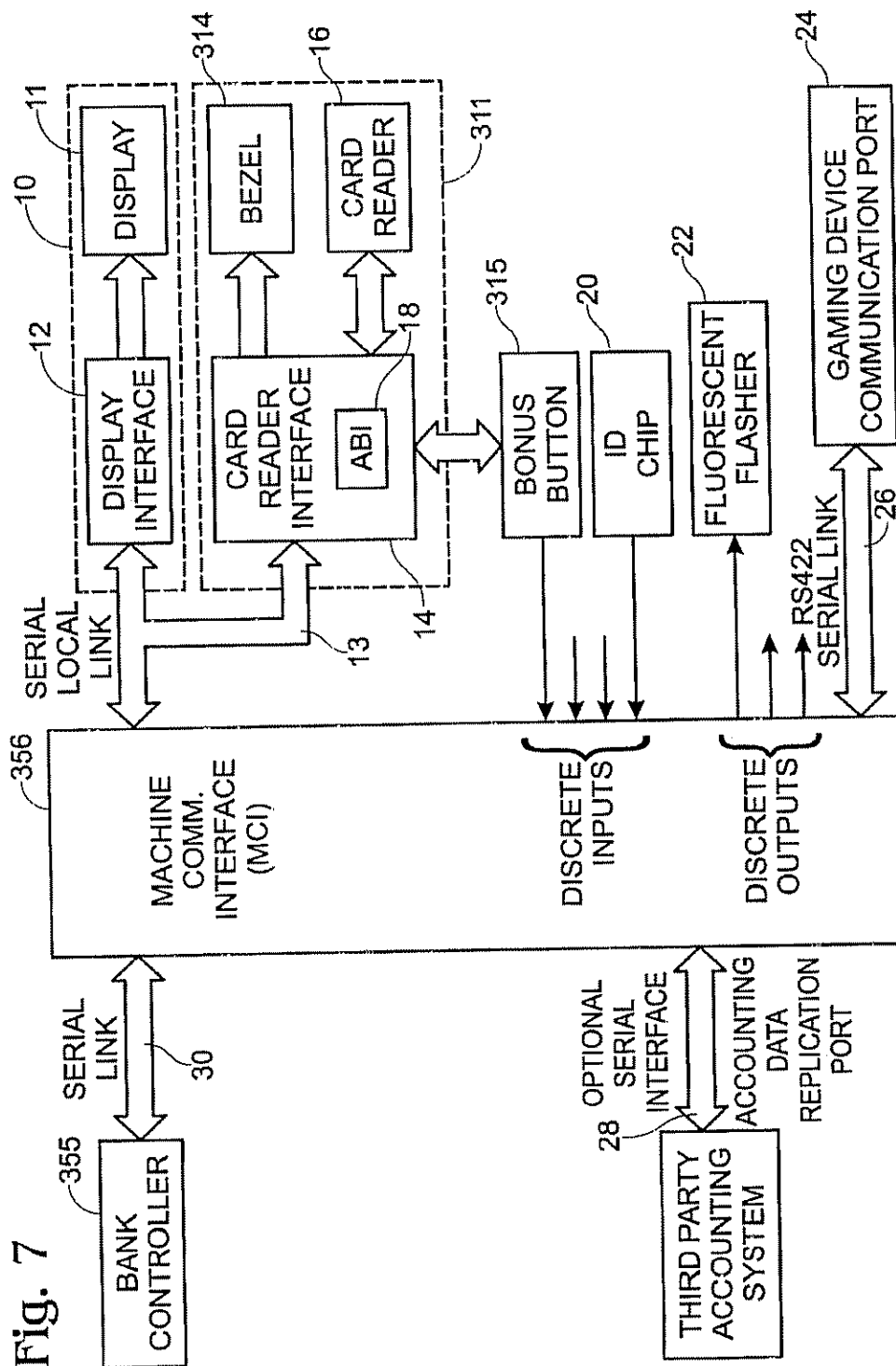


Fig. 6

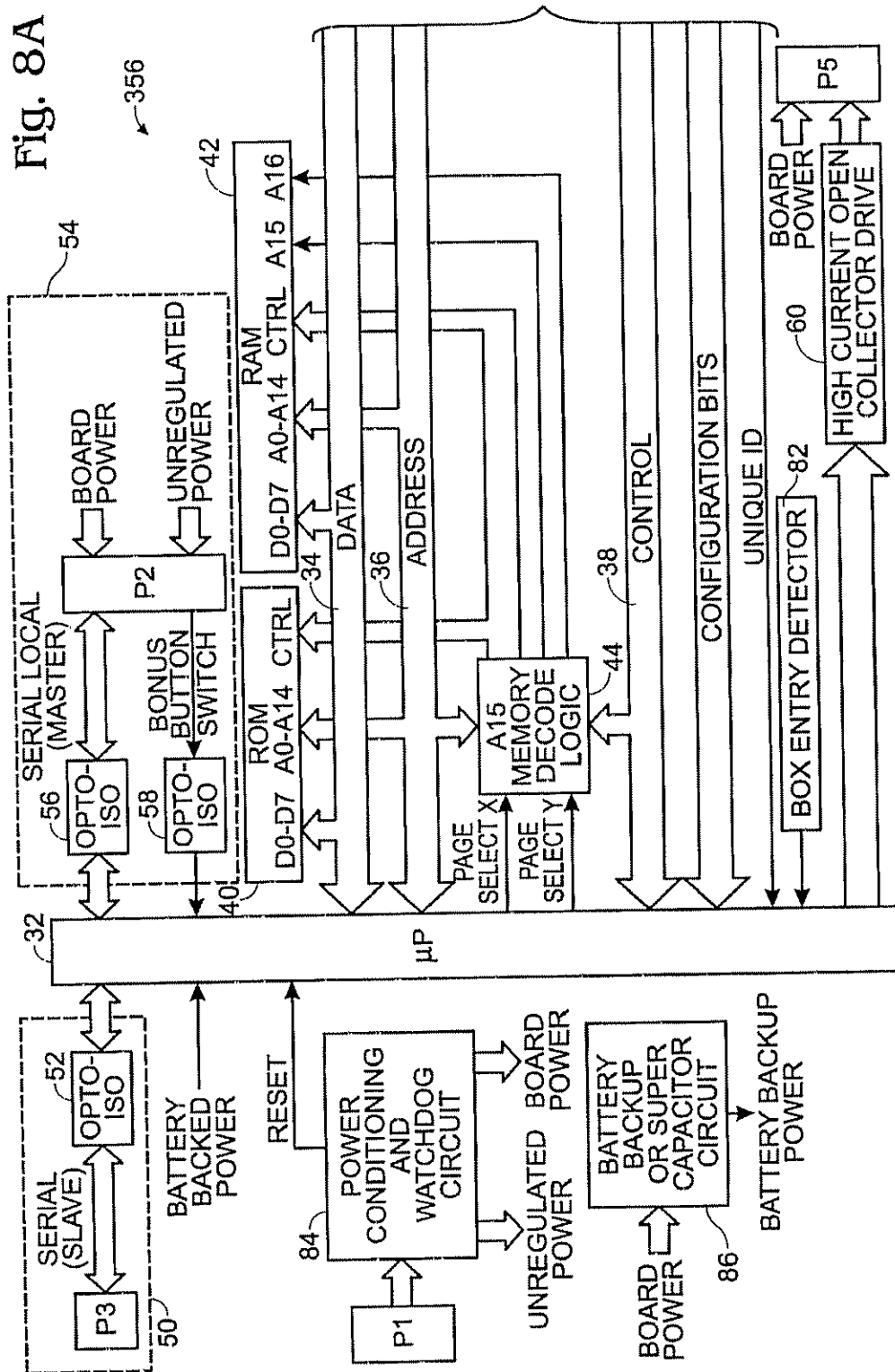


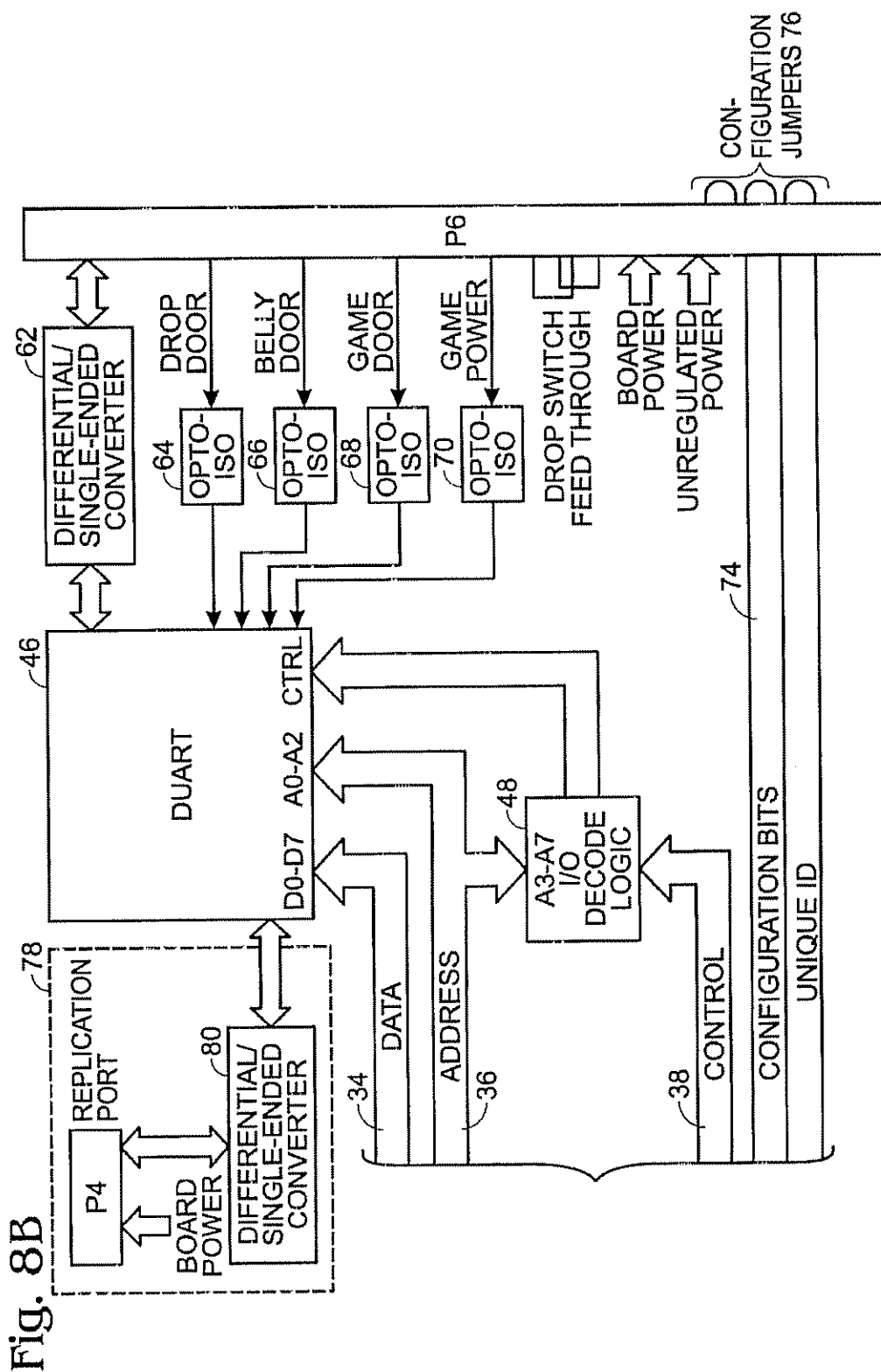
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Fig. 9A

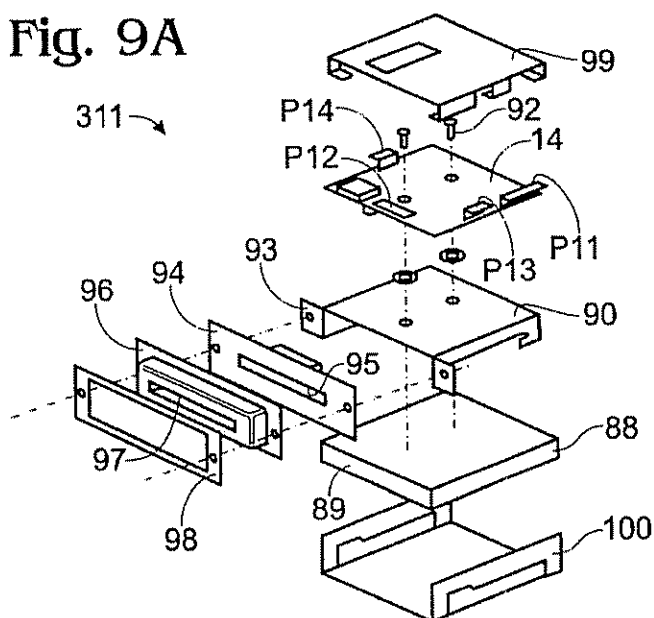


Fig. 9B

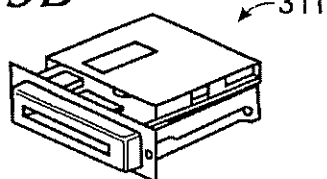


Fig. 9C



Fig. 11

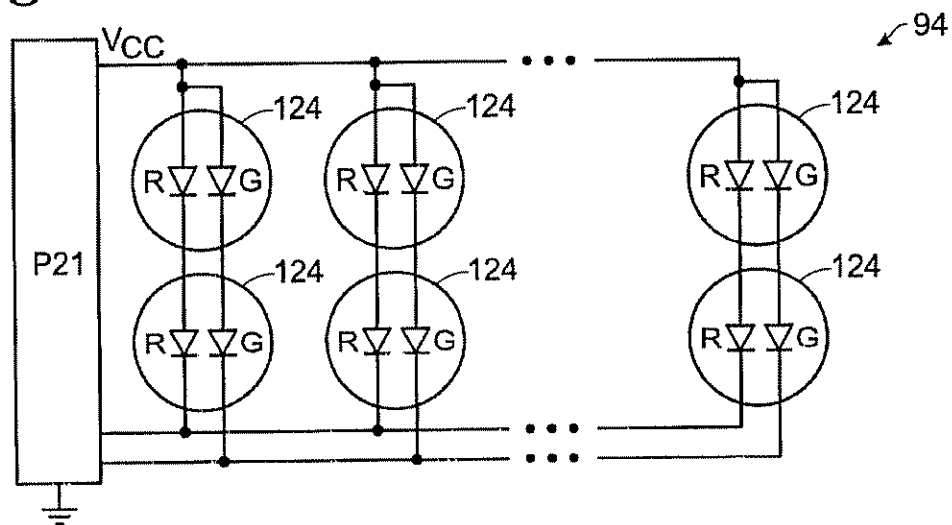
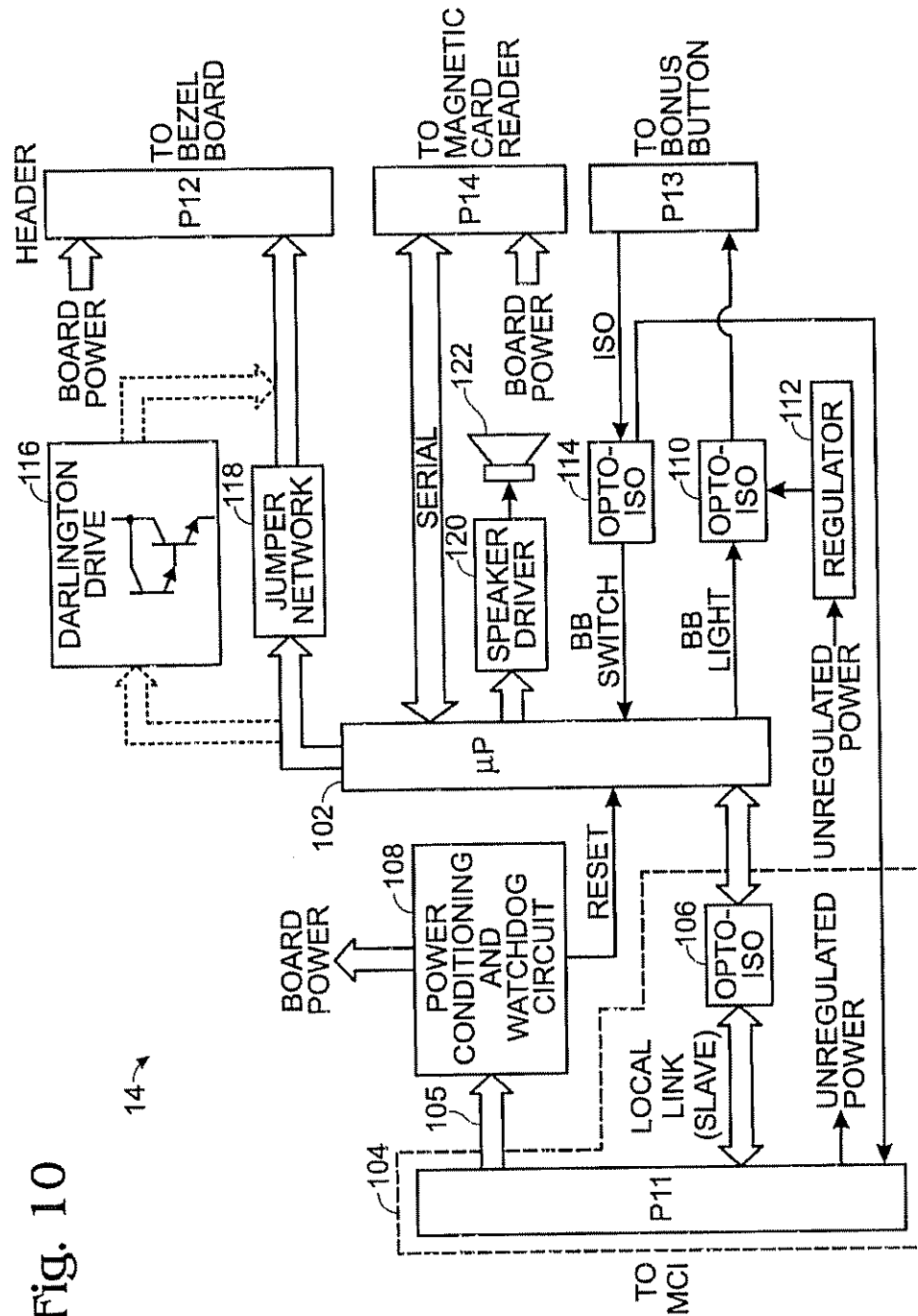


Fig. 10



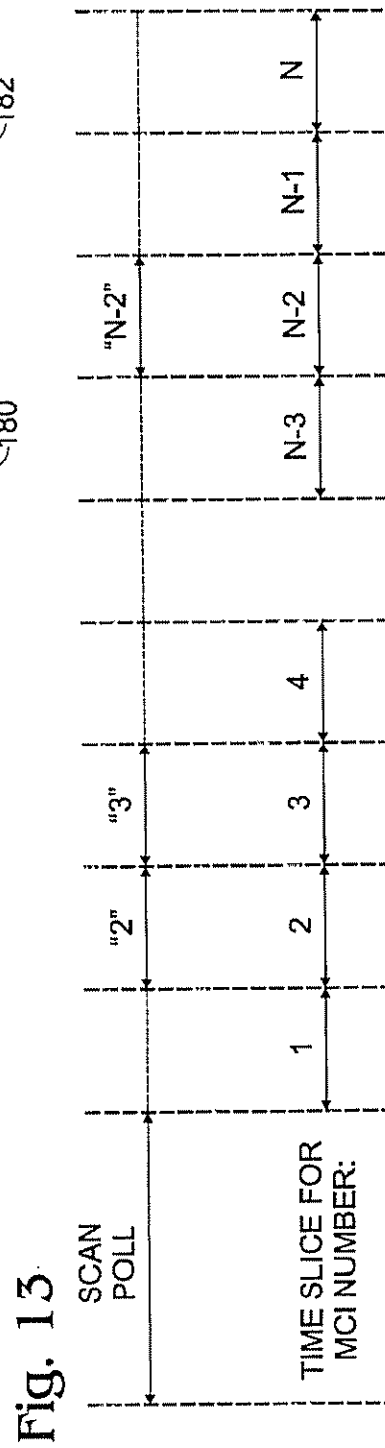
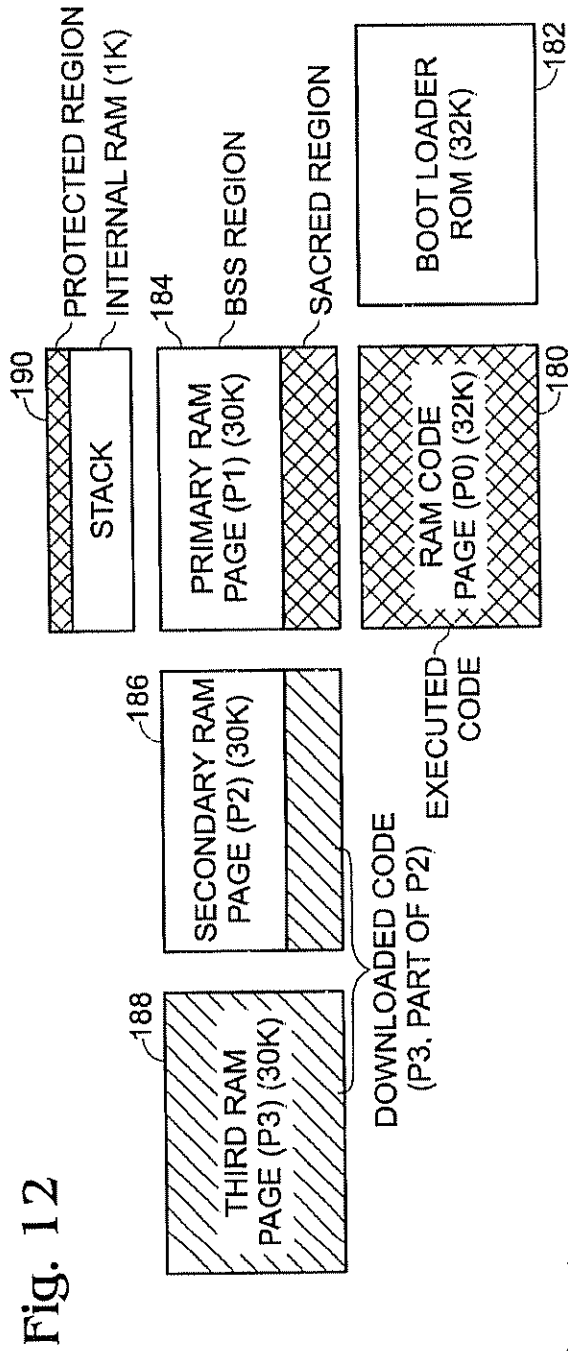


Fig. 14

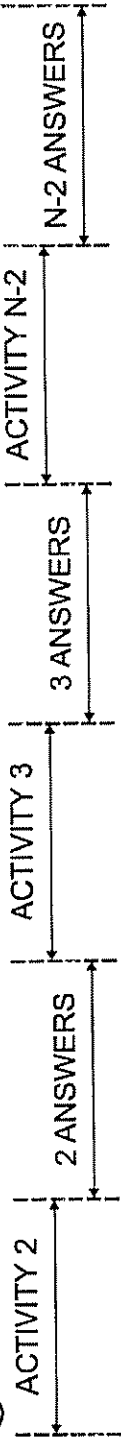


Fig. 15

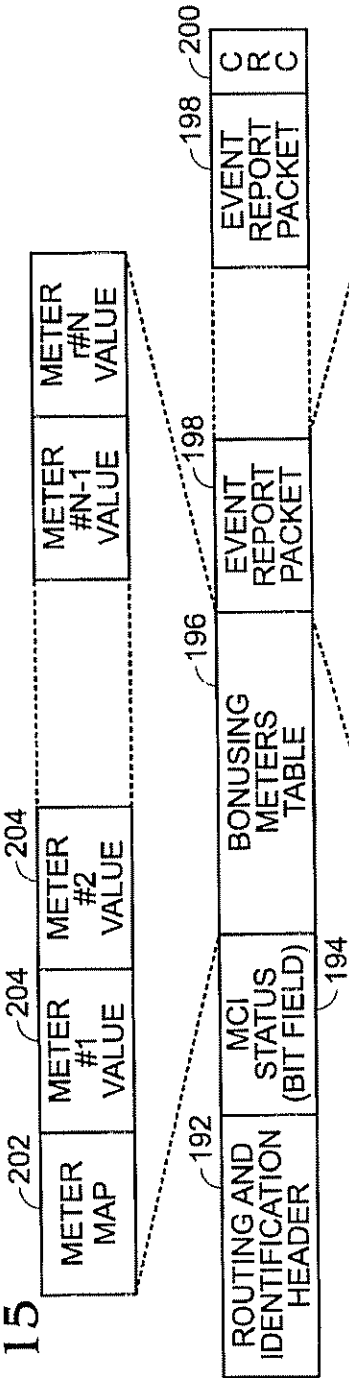
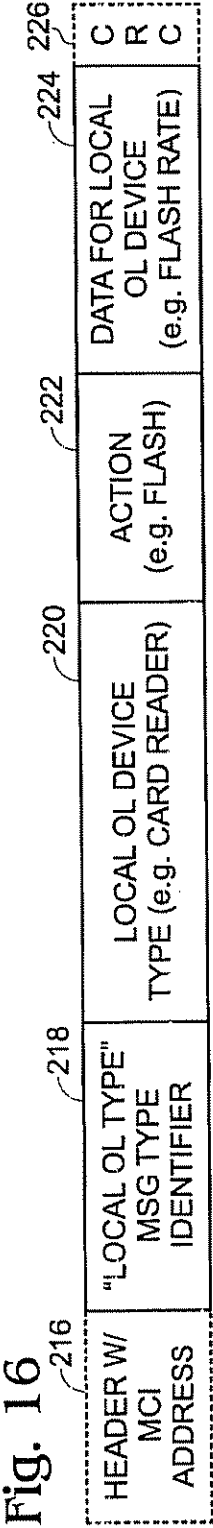
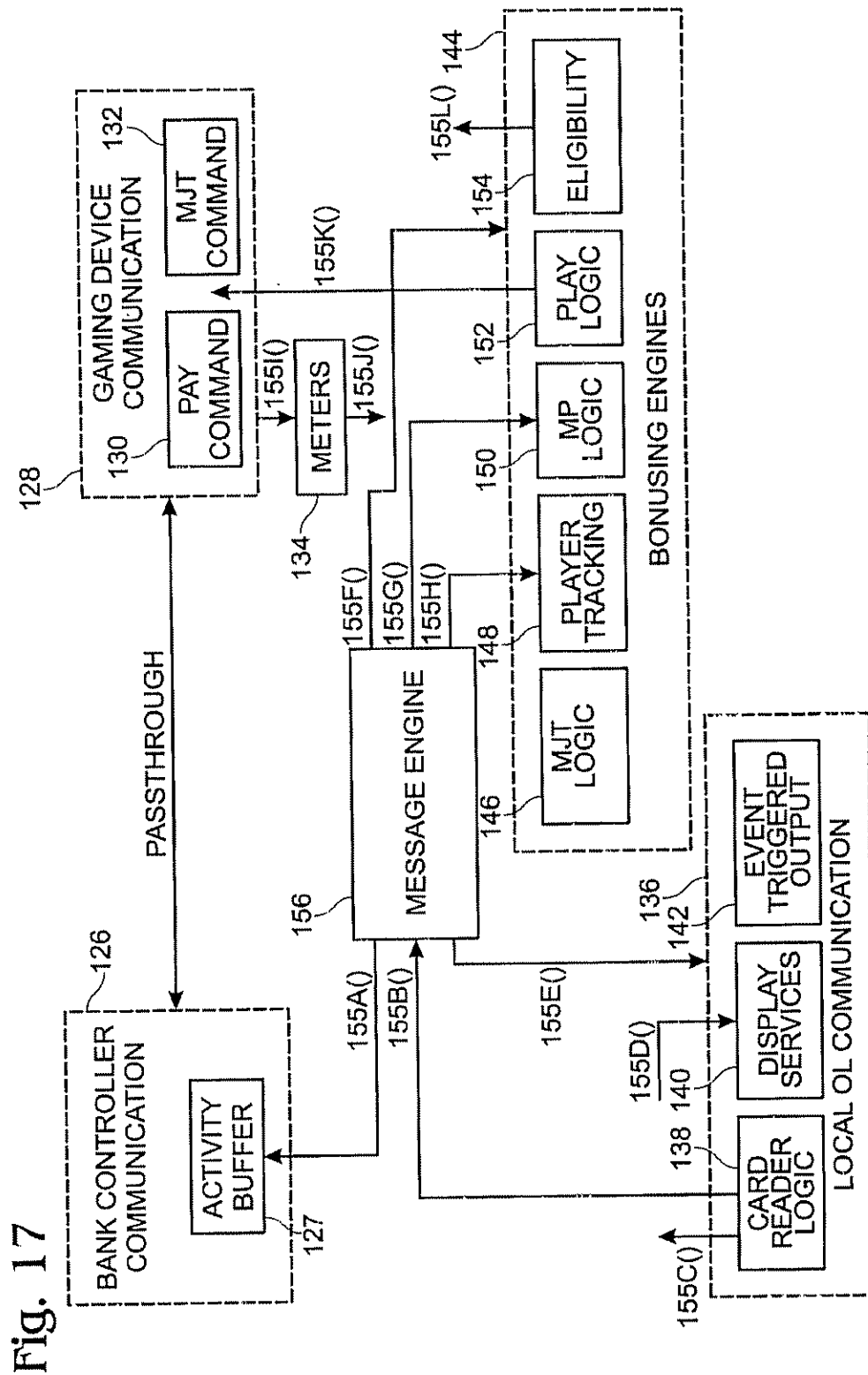
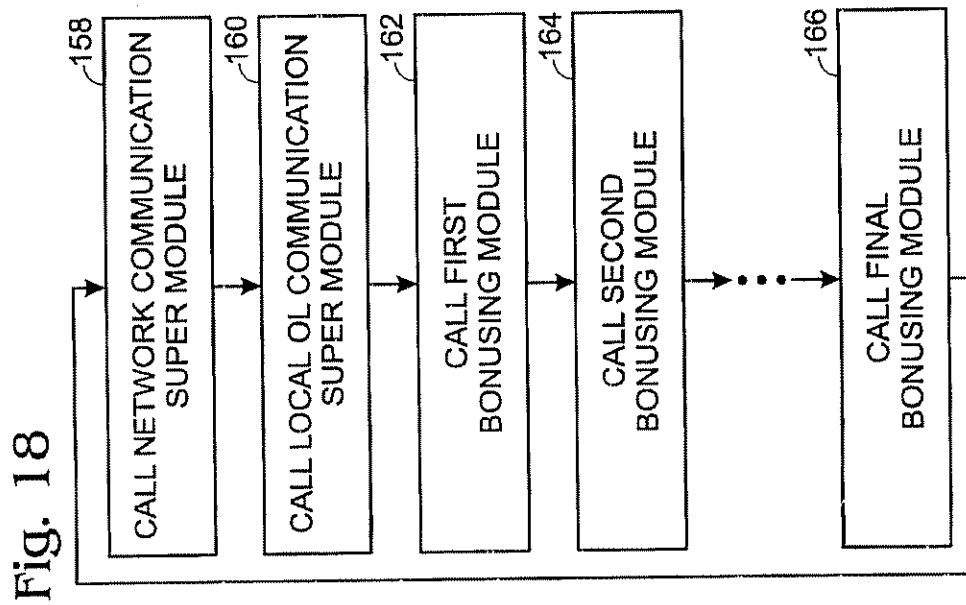
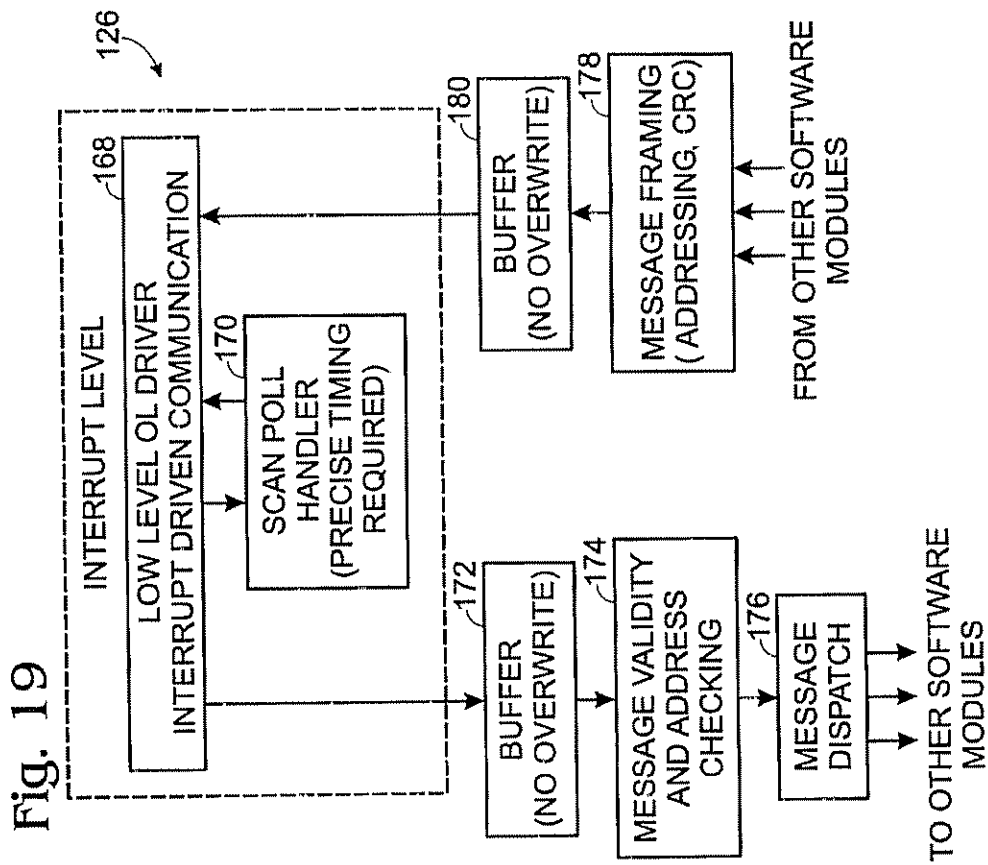


Fig. 16







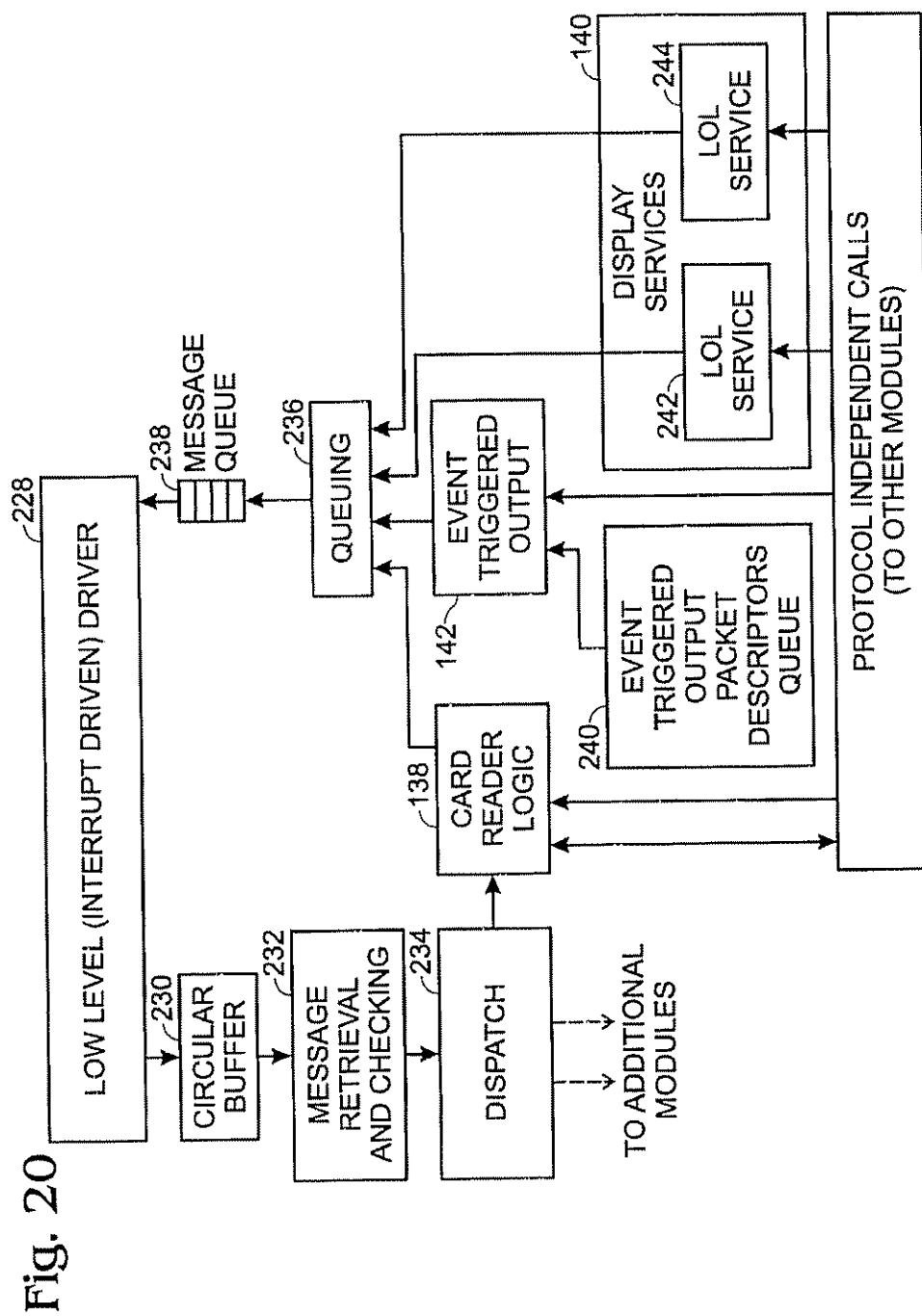


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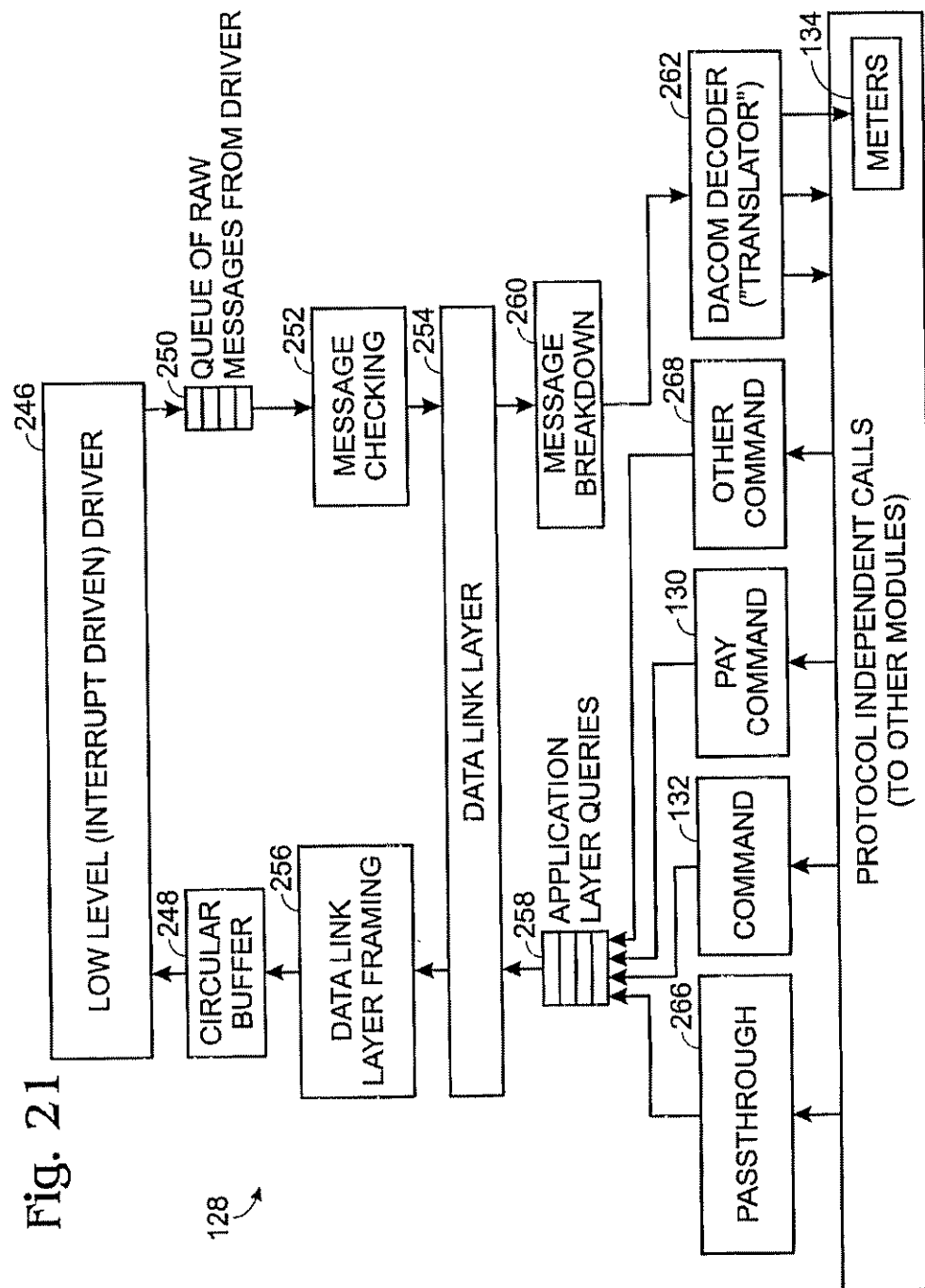


Fig. 22

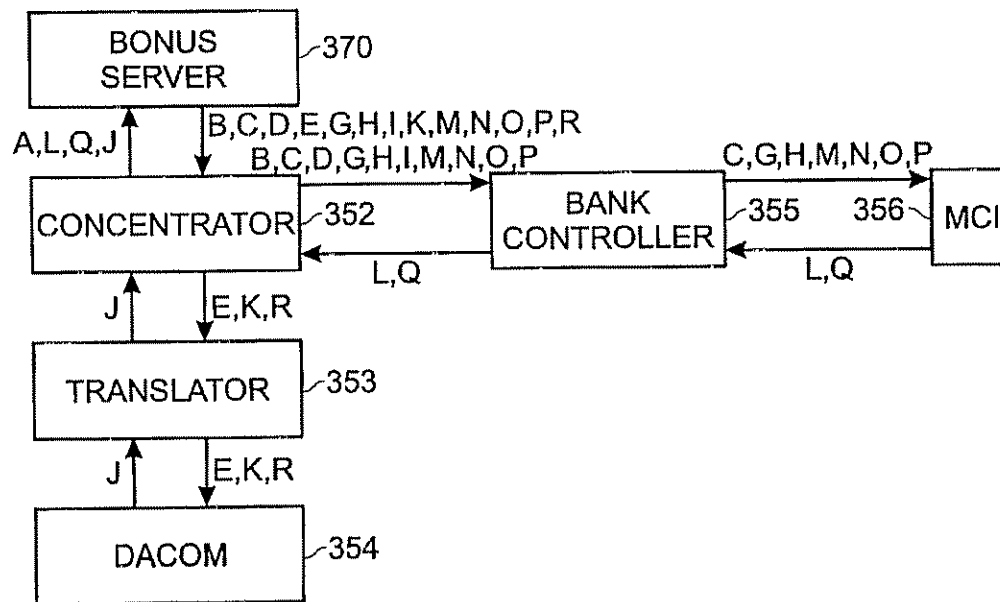


Fig. 23

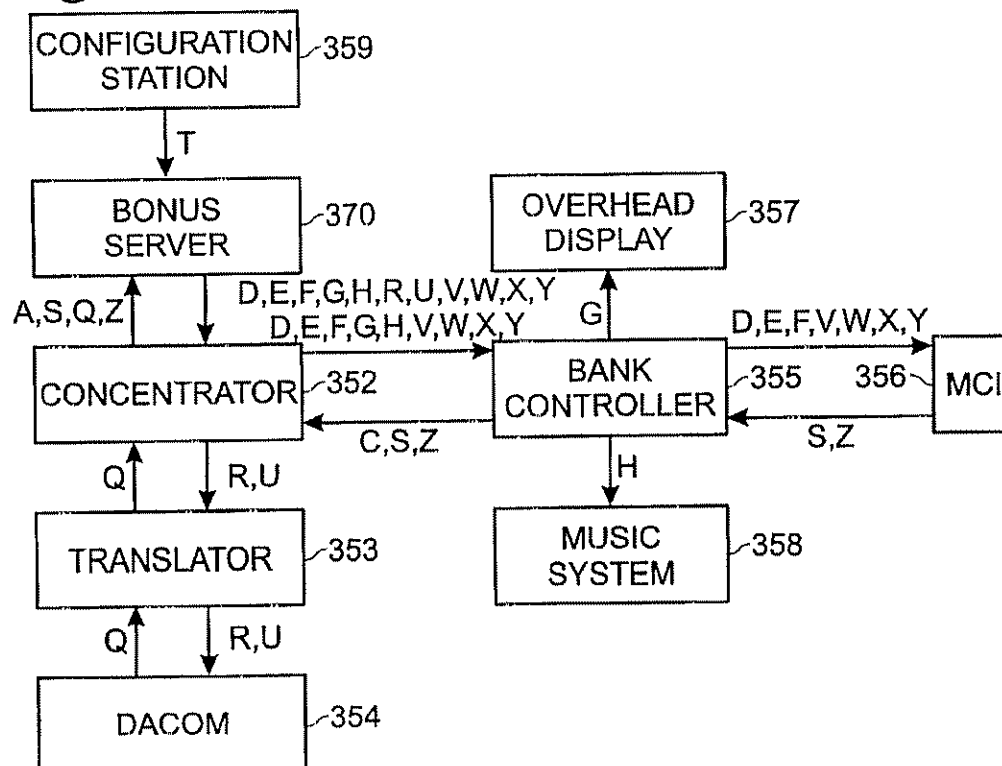


Fig. 24

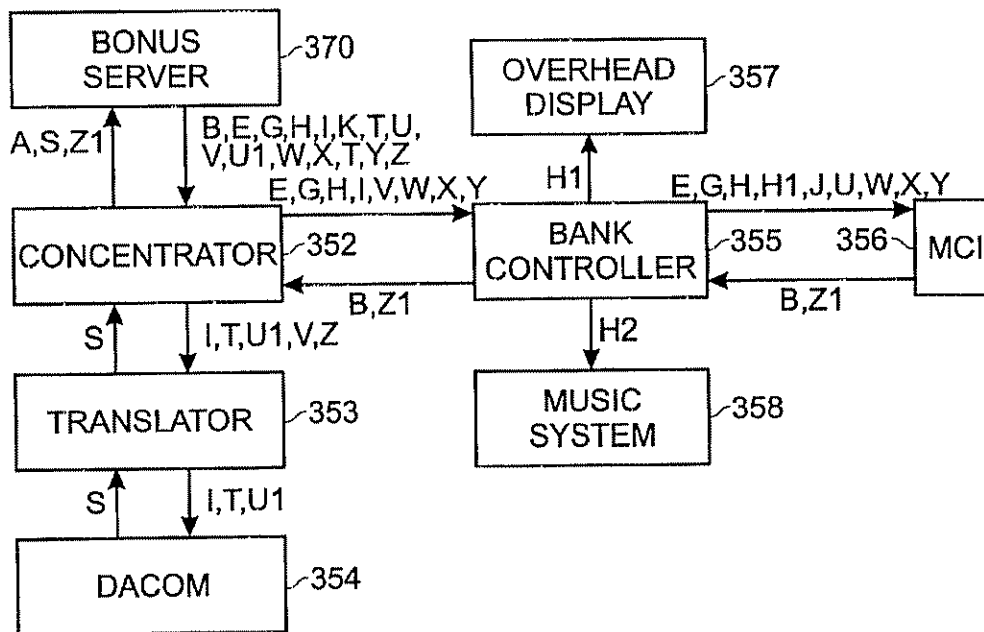
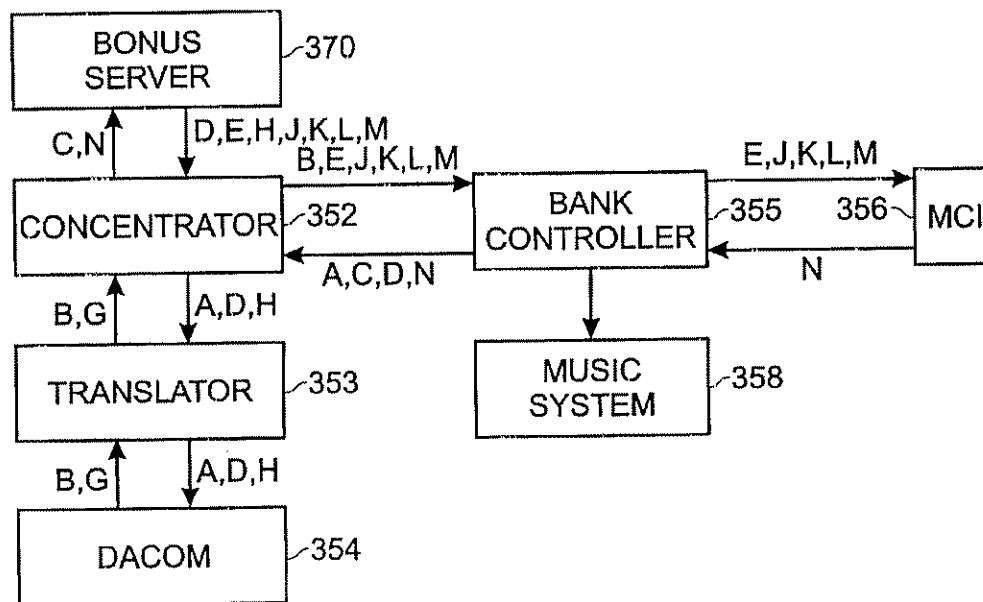
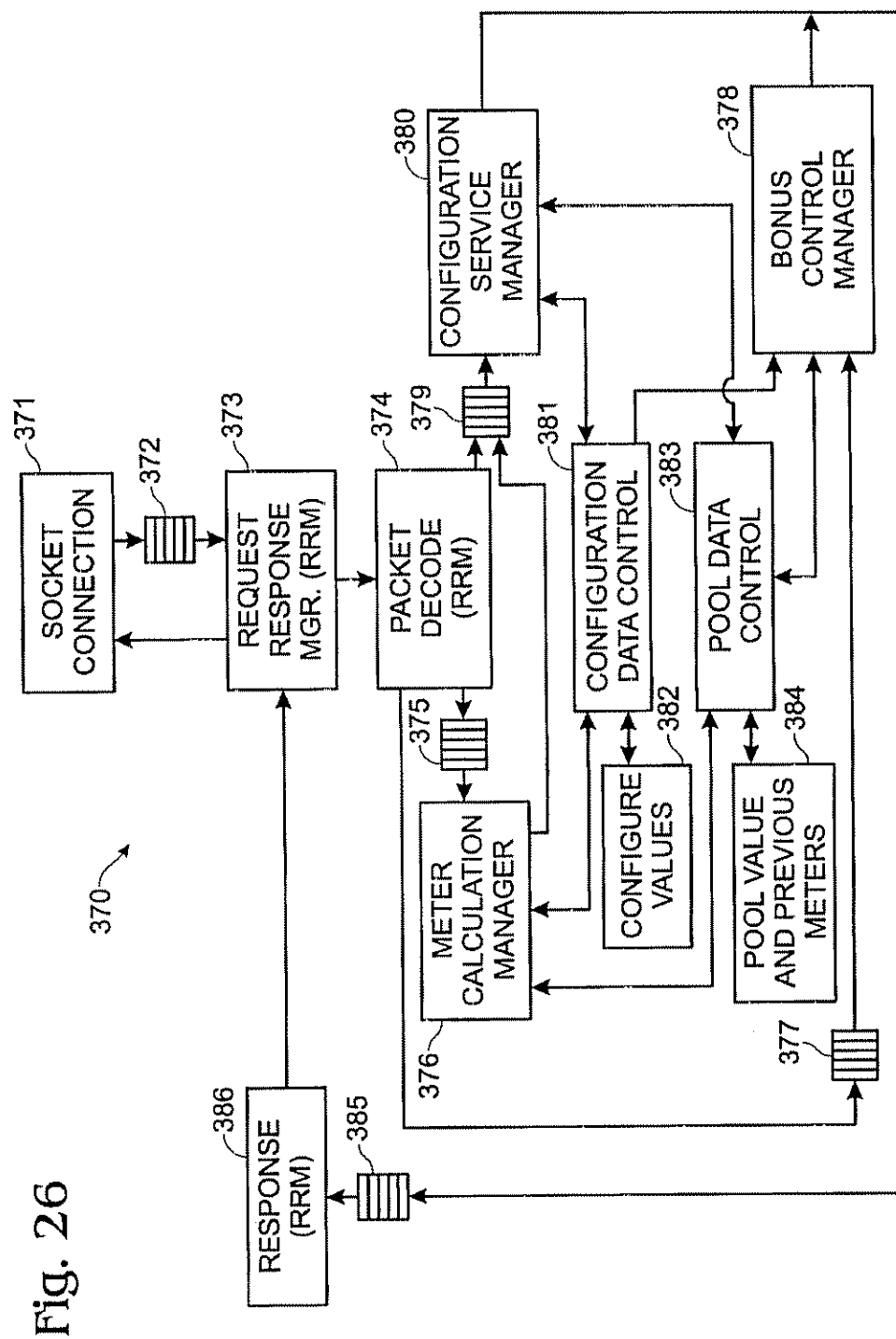


Fig. 25





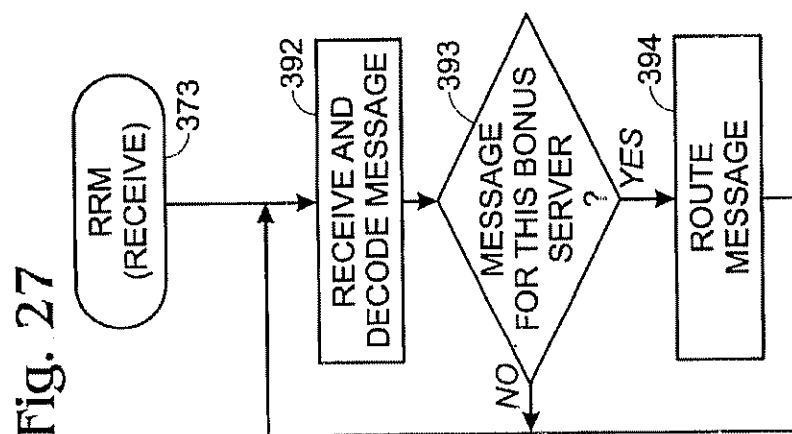
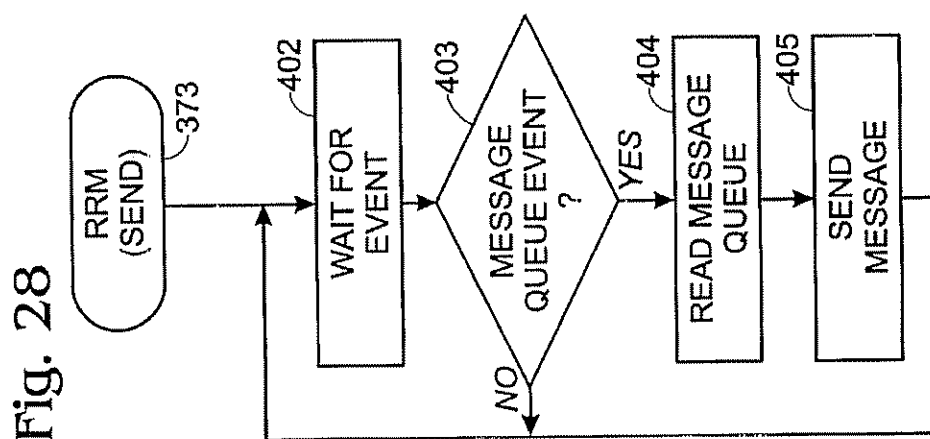
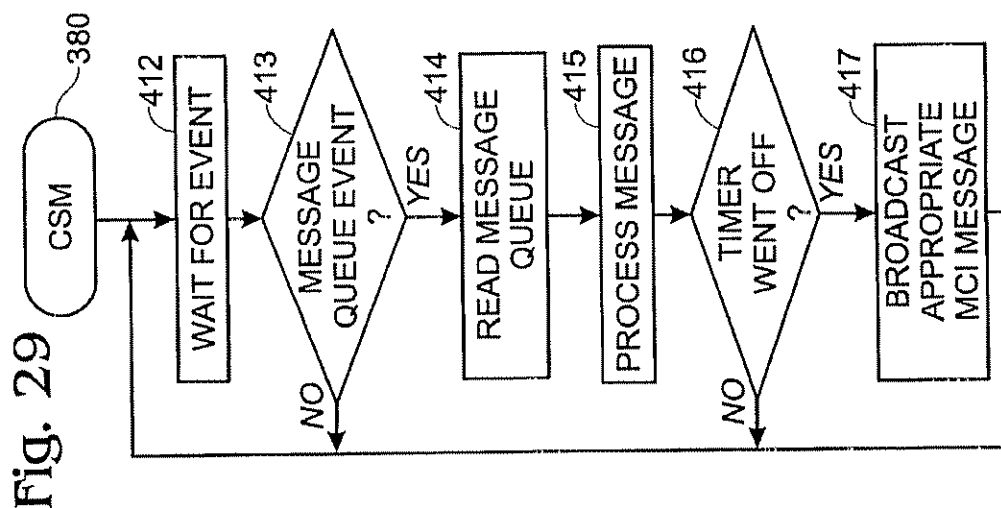
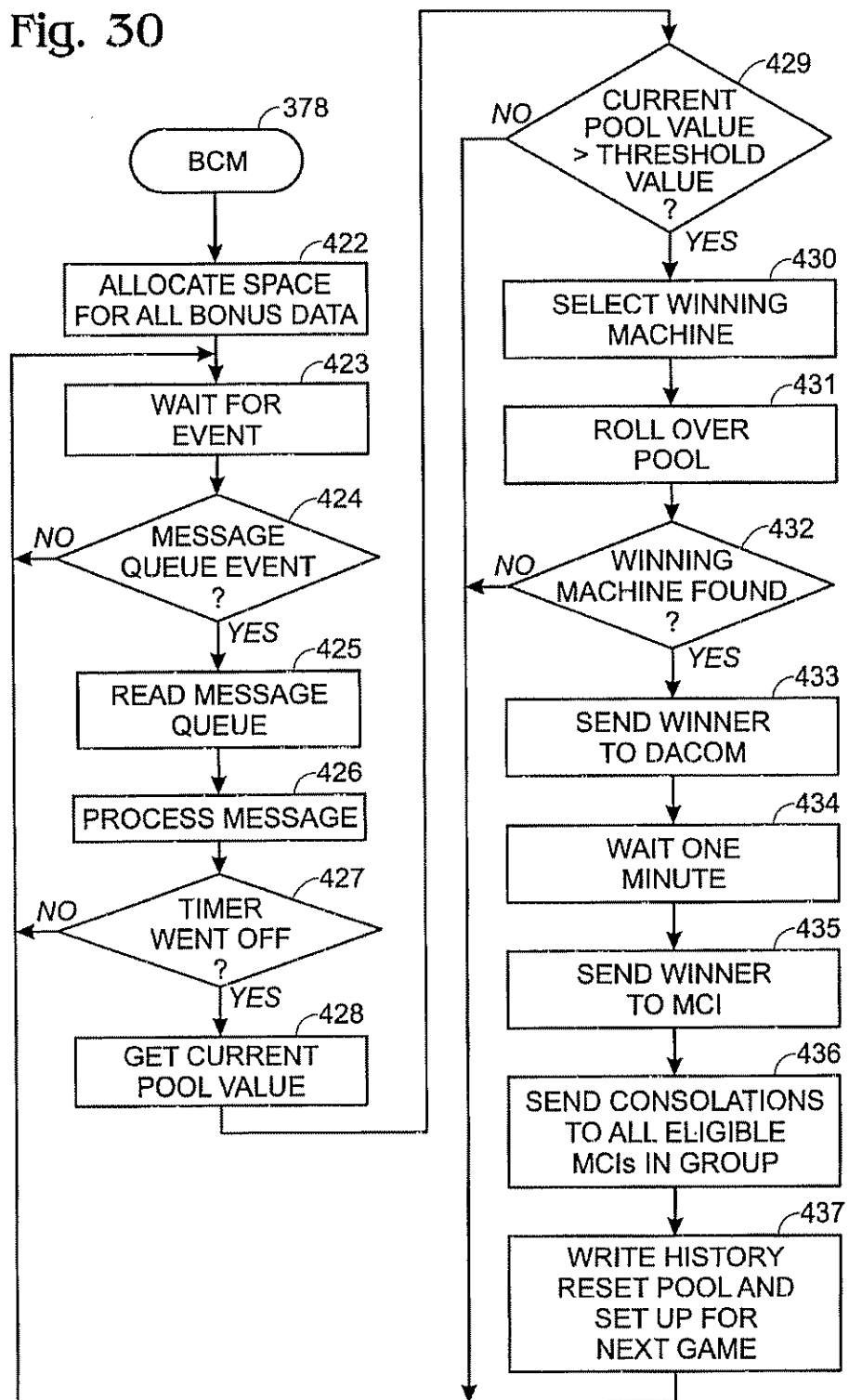


Fig. 30



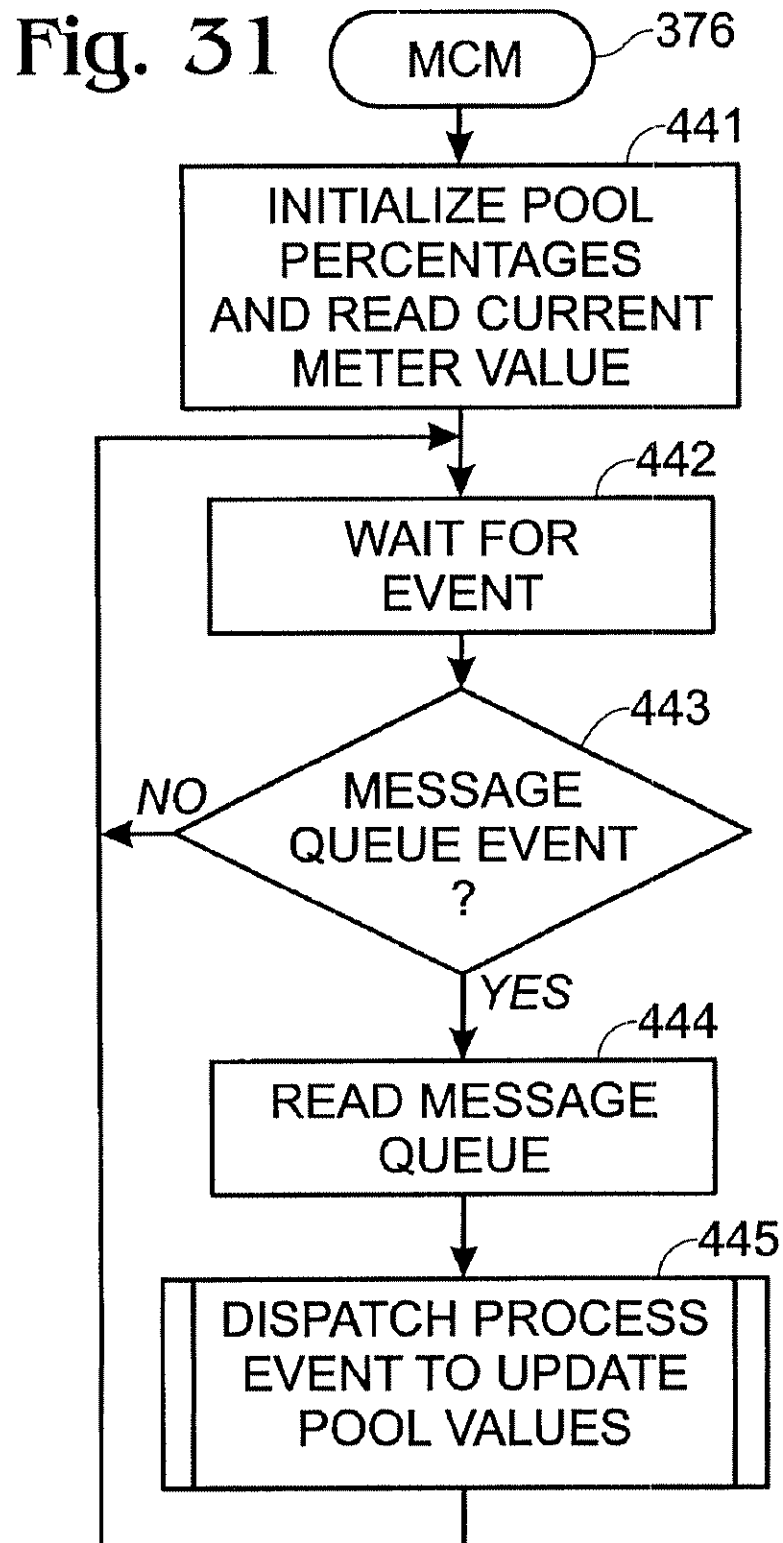


Fig. 32A

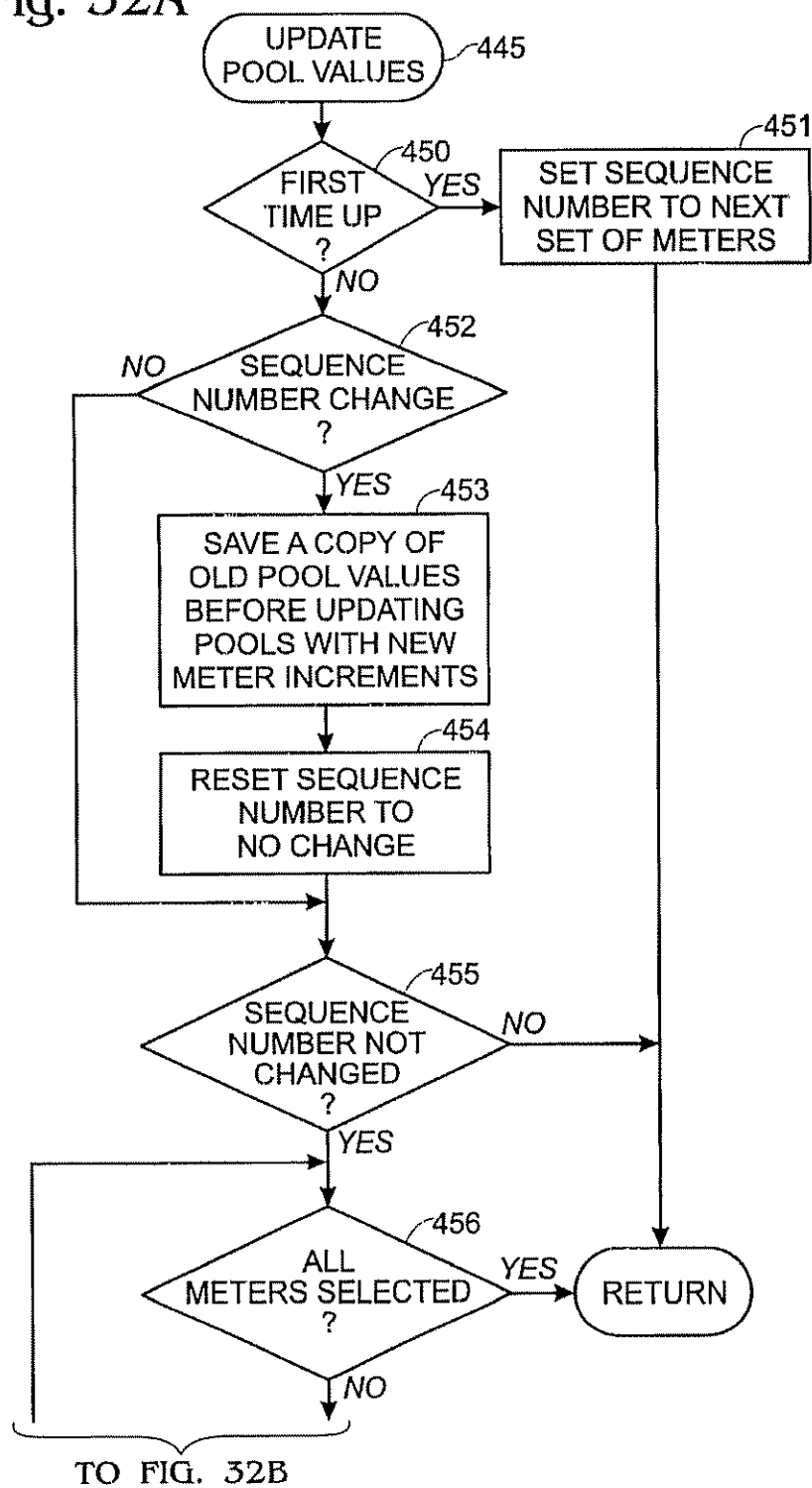


Fig. 32B

